(xiii) To computerise directory enquriy services in all the SSAs.

(xiv) To give priority for telecom facility in:
Sensitive border areas
Tribal and Hilly areas and
Industrial Growth centres.

Replacement of out-dated Telephone instruments

4609. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to sanction telephone on demand;

(b) if so, by which year it is possible to every part of the country;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to replace all the old and out-dated telephone instruments; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The 9th Five Year Plan of the Department of Telecommunication envisage to provide telephone on demand by 31.3.2002 in every part of the country with the private sector complementing the efforts of the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government propose to replace all the old and life expired telephone insturments in a phased manner progressively. Electronic Push Button Telephone Instruments are allotted every year for replacement of life expired telephone instruments. During 1999-2000 more than 5 lakh telephone instruments were allotted to various telecom circles for replacement.

Absence of telecom services in rural areas

4610. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the absence of telecom services in large number of rural areas in the country;

(b) whether Government have identified these villages;

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof;